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(54) Polymers primarily for contact lenses, and contact lenses made from them.

(57) The invention relates to new monomers of polysiloxanyl alkyl esters of acrylic and methacrylic acids and their copolymerization with alkyl esters of acrylic or methacrylic acids and/or itaconate esters to produce highly oxygen-permeable material primarily for contact lenses. The copolymer will include 10% to 60% of the silicon-containing monomer or monomers; preferred such monomers are tris(non amethyltetrasiloxanyl) methacryloxypropylsilane or bis(decamethylpentasiloxanyl)di(methacryloxypropylmethylsilane). The copolymer preferably includes a cross-linking agent and hydrophilic monomer. Contact lenses manufactured from the material are machined and polished into hard or semi-hard contact lenses having dimensional stability.

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